

Constituent Population Designation summary recommendations – Puget Sound Chinook

Geo-region	Population	Designation			WSMZ
		Primary	Contributing	Stabilizing	
Strait of Georgia	NF Nooksack	Yes			
	SF Nooksack	Yes			
Whidbey Basin	Upper Skagit - summer	Yes			
	Lower Skagit - fall	Yes ¹			
	Cascade - spring	Yes ²			
	Suiattle - spring	Yes			Yes
	Upper Sauk – spring	Yes			Yes
	Lower Sauk – summer	Yes			Yes
	NF Stillaguamish - summer	Yes			
	SF Stillaguamish - fall		Yes		
	Skykomish - summer	Yes ³			
	Snoqualmie - fall	Yes			Yes
Central/South Basin	N. Lk. Washington Sammamish			Yes	
	Cedar		Yes		Yes
	Green		Yes ⁴		
	White	Yes			
	Puyallup			Yes	
	Nisqually	Yes			
Hood Canal	Skokomish	Yes ⁵			
	Mid-Hood Canal	Yes			
Strait of Juan de Fuca	Dungeness	Yes			
	Elwha	Yes ⁶			Yes ⁶

¹ Consider for WSMZ designation.² If discontinue current program want to designate as WSMZ.³ Want to revisit and consider changing designations with SF Stillaguamish.⁴ Expect quantifiable benchmarks for implementation to allow progress from current.⁵ Expect quantifiable benchmarks for implementation to allow progress from current.⁶ Would like to see rise to a WSMZ designation eventually.

Recommended portfolio of actions for progress on Green R. and Skokomish R. Chinook populations.

The PSHAAG has identified the Green River Chinook population as a candidate for a high viability goal in recovery (Contributing) and has concurred with the PS Recovery Plan's designation of the Skokomish River Chinook for high viability in recovery.

It is acknowledged and understood by the group that the current performance of the natural Chinook populations in the Green and Skokomish rivers is limited by the condition of the current habitat, and that improved performance cannot solely or even principally occur only through significant changes in the hatchery programs without large affects to fisheries currently in place throughout Puget Sound and the pre-terminal areas of the watersheds (see AHA model runs 9/14/2011).

However, it is important to the Puget Sound Hatchery Action Advisory Group that WDFW hatchery programs, operating in these watersheds, be brought into balance with these conservation objectives over time. To that end, the PSHAAG recommends a portfolio of actions, with performance benchmarks, be developed and implemented to ensure progress towards greater protection of the natural populations of Chinook in these watersheds. The PSHAAG strongly advocates for implementation of the portfolio or actions thereof to reduce risk and provide greater protection from effects of hatcheries, and barring implementation and/or failure to achieve benchmarks, the PSHAAG would advocate for a significant reduction of Chinook production in both watersheds.

Green River Chinook Recommendations

Near Term Actions – 2011 - 2015

1. Re-evaluate productivity estimates for Green R. Chinook e.g. slide effect near Flaming Geyser.
2. Develop natural origin escapement goal within current aggregate escapement goal.
3. Implement mark selective fisheries in pre-terminal and terminal area that fundamentally harvest Soos Creek origin hatchery Chinook.
4. Update of PS Chinook Harvest Resource Management Plan and associated identified harvest on population.
5. Seek and secure capital funds to rebuild Soos Creek Hatchery.

Short Term Actions – 2015 – 2020

1. Achieve all near term actions, plus,
2. Rebuild Soos Creek Hatchery inclusive of Green River weir to assist in managing pHOS in the watershed.
3. Evaluate and implement two-stage integration.
4. Ensure natural origin escapement goal achieved annually within aggregate.
5. Re-evaluate overall program performance with other changes occurring in watershed
 - a. Howard Hansen Dam operation/downstream juvenile fish passage
 - b. Habitat protection/restoration through salmon recovery,

- c. Soos Crk. Hatchery survival and contribution to fisheries between 2015 – 2020.

Long Term Actions – 2020 – 2025

1. Achieve all near and short term actions, plus,
2. pHOS at 30% or less,
3. Program performance achieving at least contributing metrics.

Skokomish Chinook Recommendations

Near Term Actions – 2011 - 2015

1. Re-evaluate or develop more contemporary EDT estimates for Skokomish Watershed given habitat restoration actions.
2. If productivity of habitat better than estimates in AHA model, then incorporate new estimates in model runs and re-evaluate performance.
3. If productivity of habitat better than current AHA model estimates, then pursue in short term period a weir, if needed and feasible, for use in managing the pHOS level.
4. If productivity of habitat better than current AHA model estimates, then evaluate a two-stage integration Chinook program at George Adams.
5. Ensure smolt monitoring occurs to document productivity.

Short Term Actions – 2015 – 2020

1. Achieve all near term actions plus,
2. Implement terminal mark selective fisheries for all parties.
3. Construct weir if productivity better.

Long Term Actions – 2020 – 2025

1. Ensure progress towards primary stock designation metrics.
2. Ensure pHOS remains at or below 30%